

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVEN BELLONE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Lawrence Swanson  
Chairperson  
CEQ

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MEETING SUMMARY**

DATE: October 16, 2019  
TIME: 9:34 am – 12.45 pm  
LOCATION: Arthur Kunz Library  
H. Lee Dennison Bldg. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York

### **PRESENT:**

Larry Swanson, Chair  
Michael Kaufman, Vice Chair  
Hon. Al Krupski  
Robert Carpenter Jr.  
Frank De Rubeis  
Thomas Gulbransen  
Constance Kepert  
Mary Ann Spencer  
Andrea Spilka

### **ABSENT:**

Michael Doall  
Eva Growney  
Hon. Kara Hahn

### **CAC REPRESENTATIVES:**

None

### **STAFF:**

Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner  
John Corral, Senior Planner  
Christine DeSalvo, Principal Office Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Sarah Lansdale, Director of Planning, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning and Environment,  
Frank Castelli, Chief Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality  
Jon Sokol, Planning Aide, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Water Quality  
Melissa Kangas, Planning Aide, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Planning  
Richard Martin, Director of Historic Services, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Nick Gibbons, Principal Environmental Analyst, Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
Janet Longo, Land Management Specialist, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Real Estate  
Maria Kelly, Land Management Specialist, Suffolk County Economic Development and Planning, Division of Real Estate  
Tom Iwanejko, Director, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control  
Russ Mackey, Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Highways  
Moses Cucura, Entomologist, Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control  
Janice McGovern, Acting Chief Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works  
Ken Zegal, Associate Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Ecology  
Tim Rothang, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Legislator Rudolph A. Sunderman, District 3  
Christina DeLisi, Suffolk County Legislative Aide for Suffolk County Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory  
Maria Nida, Assistant County Attorney, Suffolk County Department of Law

**Minutes:**

- September 18, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to approve the September 18, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeRubeis. Motion carried.

**Correspondence**

None

### **Historic Trust Docket:**

Director's Report:

- Updates on Housing Program for Historic Trust Sites

Mr. Martin noted that there was no new updates on the housing.

- Updates on Historic Trust Custodial Agreements

Mr. Martin noted that there was no new updates with regards to the Custodial Agreements.

- Mr. Martin gave an update on the St. James General Store and CEQ's request to have the electrical system checked. Mr. Martin noted that he spoke with Mr. Wolff, Head of Suffolk County Parks Maintenance, who was in charge of the property when it was taken over by the County in the late 1980's. Mr. Wolff stated that when the property was taken over by the County, a new electrical 200 Amp service was installed and the wiring and outlets were checked and updated as needed. Mr. Martin also informed the CEQ that the property was inspected by the Fire Marshall last spring and no major issues were found and the minor issues had been corrected. Mr. Martin noted that the General Store was again inspected on 10/9/2019 by the Division of Employee Safety and Health and they did not find any issues. Mr. Martin noted that he has copies of the above referenced Fire Marshall Inspection report and the Division of Employee Safety and Heath report. Mr. Swanson thanked Mr. Martin for following up on this issue.

Mr. Swanson also asked about new crosswalks in front of the St. James General Store. Mr. Martin noted that the Town of Smithtown had installed the new crosswalk and lighting as well as the new curbs and sidewalk and that this was likely done to improve pedestrian safety.

Mr. Martin also reminded everyone that the open house for the Homan House in Yaphank is scheduled for October 26, 2019 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and that in December it will be decorated for the Holidays and open for tours.

### **Project Review:**

#### **Recommended Type II Actions:**

##### **A. Proposed 2020 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work**

A presentation regarding the proposal was given at the meeting by Tom Iwanejko, Director of Vector Control with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The action involves the implementation of the 2020 Vector Control Annual Plan of Work by the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Division of Vector Control to control mosquito infestations that significantly threaten public health, or create social or economic problems to the communities in which they occur.

As part of his presentation Mr. Iwanejko noted that Suffolk County Division of

Vector Control hired researchers from Stony Brook University to conduct a review of the scientific literature related to the use of Methoprene and its related environmental risks. Mr. Iwanejko noted that this report will be finalized shortly but the draft findings noted that when Methoprene is used according to the label specifications it is among the safest pesticides available for the treatment of mosquitoes.

The CEQ discussed the data on pesticide usage that is included in the Vector Control 2020 Annual Plan of Work. The CEQ also discussed mosquito transmitted diseases. It was noted that the recent cut back by the State of Connecticut on their mosquito control program may be why Connecticut has been seeing higher detections of mosquito borne illnesses in humans.

The CEQ also discussed that the Suffolk County Vector Control is working through the Suffolk County shared municipal services program to work with local municipalities on tick control measures. The CEQ noted that it is important for the local municipalities to receive guidance on this issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman recommending that the 2020 Annual Plan of work was in conformance with the GEIS for the Suffolk County Vector Control and Wetlands Management Long Term Plan and therefore no further SEQR compliance is required. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Motion carried.

### **Project Review:**

#### **Recommended Unlisted Actions:**

- A. Proposed Acquisition of Land Under the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program – Historic and/or Cultural Park Component – For the Bummer and Maston Property – Webb Hawkins House, Town of Brookhaven

A presentation regarding the project was given at the meeting by Melissa Kangas, Planning Aide, with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning. The project involves the acquisition of land by Suffolk County under the New County Drinking Water Protection – Historic and/or Cultural Park Component – For the Bummer and Maston Property – Webb Hawkins House for historic/cultural park use. The proposed acquisition is located north of Montauk Highway and west of Moriches Middle Island Road in the hamlet of Moriches, Town of Brookhaven (SCTM # 0200-826.00-04.00-004.000).

It is proposed that the Town of Brookhaven would improve and maintain the park in perpetuity and access to the park will be provided to all Suffolk County residents. Proposed improvements include repairs to the historic, 19th Century house, possible repairs or removal of small shed structures, and construction of a small permeable parking area. Future management of the property may also include the blazing of a walking trail, which would not require the removal of trees.

The CEQ discussed and voiced concern over whether the building would be properly

maintained and repaired and that the County would not be left responsible for the repair and upkeep of the historic structure. The CEQ also noted that the draft Suffolk County Legislative introductory acquisition resolution, which was part of the submitted project information, should be further clarified, regarding the Town of Brookhaven's commitment to improve, develop and maintain and repair the property as a historic facility, in perpetuity.

After a discussion a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilka. Ms. Spencer abstained. Motion carried.

**B. Proposed Reconstruction of CR 97, Nicolls Road, at New York State Route 25A – CP5512, Town of Brookhaven**

A presentation regarding the proposed project was given at the meeting by Russell Mackey, Senior Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works. The project involves reconstruction of the intersection of CR 97, Nicolls Road at New York State Route 25A. The existing right-turn ramp serving eastbound Route 25A will be reconfigured to provide a traditional right turn lane at the existing interstation of Route 25A and Nicolls Road. The project also involves new sidewalk on the west side of Nicolls Road between Route 25A and the SUNY Stony Brook North Entrance to improve pedestrian safety and mobility

As part of its project discussion, the CEQ had questions regarding how this project would impact traffic flow on New York State Route 25A due to the proposed intersection change. Mr. Mackey noted that the State has reviewed this project and will adjust the traffic light and has calculated the proper length of the right turn lane on 25A. Mr. Mackey also noted that New York State would be responsible for making any changes to the 25A corridor such as traffic signal modification. The CEQ also noted the benefits that this project would have in terms of both the pedestrian and traffic safety improvements that would result from this project.

After a discussion a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spencer. Mr. De Rubeis voted no. Motion carried.

**C. Proposed Revision to the Approximately 100 Feet of Connetquot River Headwaters Crossing Methodology for the Project Formerly Known as the Sanitary Pumping Station and Force Main Piping System for the Planned Ronkonkoma Hub Development, Town of Brookhaven, Town of Islip and Village of Islandia**

A presentation regarding the revised project was given at the meeting by Janice McGovern, Acting Chief Civil Engineer, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Mark Wagner from Cameron Engineering and Associates. Ms. McGovern noted that the overall Ronkonkoma Hub sewer connection project had previously received a SEQRA Negative Declaration but due to unexpectedly high groundwater levels in the Connetquot River Headwaters a project revision to the force main

installation method has been proposed. As a result, Ms. McGovern stated that Suffolk County believed it was prudent to have the revised project reviewed by the CEQ for an updated SEQRA recommendation. Ms. McGovern also noted that Suffolk County met with Suffolk County Parks, New York State Parks, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Village of Islandia to come to an agreed upon resolution regarding this construction method change due to the higher groundwater level.

After Ms. McGovern's project overview, a description of the revised project was given by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Wagner noted that the project revision consists of a proposed construction methodology change from pipe jacking to an open trench installation technique along an approximately 100 foot section of roadway on Johnson Avenue, in the Village of Islandia, where the proposed force main crosses the Connetquot River headwaters.

It was discussed that the proposed project change is due to the elevated groundwater conditions where the proposed force main crosses the Connetquot River headwaters and the need to reduce the amount of dewatering that will result from the installation of the force main along this portion of the project. It was noted that other than the proposed construction methodology change where the force main crosses the Connetquot River headwaters there are no other proposed changes to the project. The overall project involves the construction of a sanitary pumping station and a seven mile long force main and gravity line piping system to convey the generated wastewater from the Ronkonkoma Hub Transit Oriented Development project to the Southwest Sewer District No. 3 and ultimately to the existing Bergen Point Sewage Treatment System.

The project discussion also included an explanation of how the dewatering during construction would be handled. It was noted that a portion of the dewatering flow will be diverted through the already constructed project force main to Bergen Point Sewage Treatment Plant. In addition the dewatering flow will be monitored in accordance with a New York State Department of Conservation Dewatering Permit to assure that the proper flow is being discharged to the Connetquot River Headwaters. It was also discussed that there will be turbidity monitoring and turbidity controls to assure that water with high turbidity does not enter the Connetquot River.

After CEQ discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend a revised SEQRA classification for the proposed revised project. Mr. Kaufman recommended that the revised project be classified as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion included that the revised project will include turbidity control methods. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

**D. Proposed Pilot Tick Control Project at Indian Island County Park, Town of Riverhead – Revised**

A presentation was given regarding the proposed revised pilot tick control project by Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, Tom Iwanejko, Director, Division of Vector Control, Suffolk County Department of Public Works and Moses Cucura,

Entomologist, Division of Vector Control, Suffolk County Department of Public Works.

This presentation included a discussion on the revisions that were made to the original tick control pilot project that was tabled at the CEQ on May 8, 2019. The revised pilot project at Indian Island County Park, which is proposed to be established by Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1942-2019, is designed to minimize tick activity and tick contact with residents and staff within the park.

The pilot project will also assess efficacy of the following tick management tools: vegetation management, acaricide treatments, 4-poster units, deer management and deer exclusion. The revised pilot project also involves environmental monitoring and data collection to inform further development of a Tick Control Plan. In addition, Suffolk County Introductory Resolution 1942-2019 also establishes advocacy priorities to address with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation relating to easing restrictions on white-tailed deer population management.

Legislator Krupski, noted earlier in the meeting prior to having to leave for a legislative meeting, that he believes meaningful deer management strategy is needed to address the tick problem and that he would support many of the strategies involved in this Pilot Project when combined with a meaningful deer management strategy.

The CEQ also asked for an update on the results of this Pilot Tick Control Project. The Project sponsors noted that they would do so.

After the extended discussion on the project a motion was made by Mr. Kaufman to recommend classification of the proposed project as an Unlisted Action with a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gulbransen. Motion carried.

### **Project Review:**

### **Recommendations for LADS Report:**

Recommendations for Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 2, 2019.

Mr. Corral noted that the CEQ Staff's recommendation are listed on the LADS report and that the CEQ Staff did not find any SEQRA related issues with the introductory resolutions listed on this report.

Ms. Spencer made a motion to accept the staff recommendations on Legislative Resolutions Laid on the Table October 2, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilka. Motion carried.

### **CAC Concerns:**

No CAC concerns or comments were raised.

### **Other Business:**

- Update on the Suffolk County Subwatershed Wastewater Plan and the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Swanson noted that as Chair of the CEQ he received a request from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services requesting written clarification on some of the CEQ comments that have been made on the Subwatershed Wastewater Plan and its DGEIS. Mr. Swanson noted that he would work with CEQ members and CEQ Staff to compiling responses to questions that were asked by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Mr. Swanson also noted that the Suffolk County Department of Health Services wanted to confirm that an additional Public Hearing for the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) is not required. After discussion with members of the CEQ, the CEQ decided that special public comment sessions could be added to the CEQ meetings when the FGEIS is being reviewed. The CEQ also decided with those public comment sessions and an additional Public Hearing on the FGEIS would not be needed.

Mr. Ken Zegal, Associate Public Health Engineer for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Ecology also provided an update on the anticipated review schedule for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The CEQ members were also given a copy of the anticipated review schedule.

The regular CEQ Meeting Adjourned